



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact Name: Roel Gomez

Phone Number: 956-383-4928 ext.4

Email: Roel.Gomez@tx.usda.gov

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING ASSISTS IN SELF-HELP HOUSING

San Juan, Texas, May 11, 2004--Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced that Proyecto Azteca received a \$299,500 grant through the Single Family Housing, Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance program, a program that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing.

"We are very pleased to be able to award this self-help grant," said Daniel. "The funds will be used to assist a total of 65 families, located in Hidalgo County, Texas, to build their homes through the Self-Help Housing method."

USDA Rural Development makes grants to eligible nonprofit or public organizations to assist low income families who wish to work together to build their own homes. Grant money is used to pay for technical assistance the families may need in constructing the home with their own resources.

There are a number of other housing programs available to rural residents including direct and guaranteed housing loans and home repair loans and grants. Single Family Housing loans are available depending on repayment ability and the location of the home or building site. The direct loans are designed to provide low-income families with financing to build, purchase, or repair homes that meet local codes and provide adequate affordable housing. Funds may also be used to modernize or repair a home already owned by an applicant. Special financing is also available for persons 62 years of age or older to repair their homes.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Edinburg local office at (956) 383-4928, ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and includes Business Programs, Housing Programs, and Utilities Programs. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's rural residents.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.